

TIMS Update

Summer 1996

Volume 2.0



TIMS Testing

A new TIMS Test Plan has been designed to address the need to better test TIMS and thus improve its performance. The Plan consists of five phases to be completed for each TIMS' module. The testing phases will overlap and may occur concurrently.

The Client and Patient Management modules are currently undergoing phase four testing. The TB Program consultants and TIMS advisors, are conducting testing on usability, functionality, performance times, and security features.

This feedback will be used to strengthen the TIMS' features.

The surveillance module will go through the same testing process in August of 1996. The SURVS-TB staff members will perform this testing to assure data quality and integrity is maintained in TIMS.

Pre-Release field testing, or phase five, will take place in September of 1996. The sites for the testing have not yet been chosen. If you would like to be considered for field testing please call your TB Consultant or Kate Hedstrom at (404) 639-8122 or e-mail at keh3@cpstb1.em.cdc.gov.

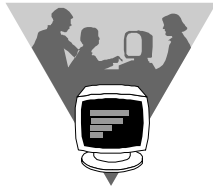
The field tests will take five days at each of the sites. The first day will

be training and orientation to TIMS and the remaining four days will be devoted to rigorous testing. TIMS will be left at each site for additional testing and feedback during the subsequent weeks.

TIMS Demonstrations

Two brown bag lunch sessions are scheduled for the TB controllers meeting in September. These sessions will take place on September 5th and 6th, 1996.

The agenda for the 5th will include an overview of TIMS, focusing on the Client and Patient Management modules. For the 6th, the focus will be the Surveillance module.



Hardware and Software Requirements

The following are the recommended and the minimum requirements for TIMS utilization. TIMS users will see optimal performance utilizing the software on the recommended hardware.

At this time TIMS is not supported for use in any operating system environment other than Windows 3.1.

RECOMMENDED

- * 133 MHz Processor
- * 32 MB RAM
- * 64 bit PCI 2MB DRAM
- * Video
- * 1.6 GB Hard Drive 10 MS access

NOTE: TIMS requires ~45MB of space to install. Additional space is required as data is added. Each client takes an average of 4.2 K with minimal comments written.

- * DOS 6.0 with Windows 3.1 or Windows for Workgroups
- * 28.8 kbps Windows compatible modem
- * 16550 UART

NOTE: Some computer companies use an 8250 UART on the communication port to save money. Specify a 16550 unless using an internal modem. Most newer internal modems have a 16550 UART.

- * Tape or Optical Backup

NOTE: May be redundant on networked systems

- * Uninterruptable Power Source (UPS)
- * Surge suppressor for phone line
- * Pointing device (mouse, trackball)
- * Printer - fast laser

MINIMUM

- * 486 66 MHz Processor
- * 16 MB RAM
- * VGA (resolution 640 x 480)
- * 250 MB Hard Drive



- * DOS 5.0 with Windows 3.1 or Windows for Workgroups
- * 9600 bps Windows compatible modem



- * Backup System

- * UPS

- * Pointing device

- * Printer - User's choice

TIMS Facts

All functionality contained in SURVS-TB is contained in the Surveillance module of TIMS.

By January of 1997, TIMS will be the sole system for reporting verified cases of tuberculosis to CDC.

All TIMS transfers, except NETSS, will be completed electronically.

All TIMS sites within a reporting area must transition at the same time. A cut-off date for entry into SURVS should be established.

TIMS and SURVS can not be run at the same time. The conversion from SURVS to TIMS will override any existing TIMS data.

TIMS and TBDS can not be run at the same time. The conversion from

TBDS to TIMS will override any existing TIMS data.

Any conflicting information between SURVS and TBDS will be resolved by having the SURVS data override the TBDS data.

TBDS will not be supported after the release of TIMS. TIMS' patient management module contains more extensive information than TBDS.

Both data conversions, SURVS and TBDS, can only be completed once.

Are You Ready for TIMS???

CDC will provide support for TIMS directly through the Reporting Areas.

The TB Consultants will be the first point of contact at CDC. The

reporting areas will need to provide support to any localities in your area.

Are the personnel in your area that will provide the overall management of TIMS identified? Have you identified the personnel that will provide technical support for TIMS?

Have you discussed TIMS with your Program Consultant?

TIMS reporting structure follows a hierarchical pattern. The Reporting Areas, Level 1 sites (agencies that report to the reporting area) or, Level 2 sites (agencies that report to the Level 1 sites) and so on. Each level reports to the one above it and the reporting areas report to CDC.

Do you have an implementation plan for TIMS?

Have TIMS sites in your area been identified?

Is every TIMS site equipped with the appropriate software and hardware (see the previous recommendations)?

All reporting areas will be responsible for 'spinning-off' the installation disks for the TIMS sites in your areas.

Electronic acknowledgment of all installations will be sent back to CDC for tracking of software licenses.

TIMS is a Windows application.

Are the people who will be using TIMS prepared to use a Windows application?

Would these people benefit from additional training?

NOTE: The Windows tutorial is on-line, accessible and free.

TIMS has a great many features. DTBE plans an extensive training to be provided in the fall/winter of 1996.

Each session will last a week. Three people from each reporting area will be allowed to attend

The people attending the sessions will be expected to provide training to the local TIMS sites.

Have you identified who will need this training?

Are the people that will attend the training ready to be trained in a Windows environment?

TIMS Hits the Internet

By July 1996, TIMS information will begin to be posted on the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination's home page. The address is:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/dtbe.html>

TIMS Database Directory Available

The TIMS database directory is available upon request. This document contains the Table Name, Column Name, Data Type, Length, Description and Module. This will be helpful to those areas that may want to import information into TIMS from existing systems.

NOTES: User defined variables exist to allow for varied input fields from area to area. Any enhancement requests can be directed to the Program Consultants.

Importation, other than the SURVS and TBDS conversions, will not be supported in the first release of TIMS.

